

Problems of Translation Studies in Studying English Language Idioms

Rakhimova Shakhnoza Palvannozirovna
PhD, Associate Professor

Article Information

Received: February 15, 2023

Accepted: March 16, 2023

Published: April 15, 2023

Keywords: *idioms, translation, difficulties, equivalent, word meaning.*

ABSTRACT

In this article, the problems of translation studies in the study of English idioms are considered and analyzed. The meaning of idioms is enormous. Idioms help to better understand the national character, values and traditions. The translation of idioms is a creative, exploratory process that motivates students and presents an intellectual challenge.

An idiom is an expression whose meaning is different from the meaning of its constituent words. In other words, this is such a unique phrase that cannot be reduced to the totality of the meanings of its constituent elements.

The idiom, from the point of view of translation, is interesting in that if we translate it word-for-word, we will never convey its meaning. The only way to understand and qualitatively translate an idiom is to study its origin, its national and cultural context, and the practice of using it by native speakers.

The meaning of idioms in the modern language is ambiguously assessed. On the one hand, fewer and fewer people use idioms in their everyday speech. The language is becoming more and more pragmatic, utilitarian, simplified. On the other hand, idioms are of great interest as a unique element of the linguistic and cultural environment. The uniqueness of idioms lies in the fact that behind their external simplicity and ease of study lies a huge potential for understanding history, culture and national character. For a language learner, idioms are a great opportunity to effortlessly master the national linguistic code that native speakers absorb with mother's milk. Translating idioms is an exciting activity that challenges erudition and linguistic instinct.

The beauty of idioms is that you can't just learn them. By themselves, they arouse the student's interest, excite the imagination, and force them to dive deeper and deeper into the study. To translate an idiom means to understand its origin, the peculiarities of its use, to study its natural habitat. Idioms in a compressed, encrypted form present us with the age-old traditions of the people, the cultural and linguistic code. Solving this code is the very challenge that modern teenagers lack when learning a language.

English idioms related to animals can be used in English lessons at school in a variety of forms of work. Idioms can be discussed, explored, played with, idioms can be the subject of an essay or a topic of discussion. Animal idioms are the best choice for immersing yourself in the world of idioms. Firstly, English animals do not differ much from Russian ones, the more interesting it is to discover the difference in their images reflected in idioms. Second, animal idioms are very descriptive, easy to explain and easy to use, which is very important when learning a foreign language. And, finally, thirdly, everyone loves animals and idioms with animals' cause everyone and always only positive emotions, which means that training and education goes easily and productively.

The translation of English idioms requires a comprehensive approach. In order to translate an idiom in the best possible way, it is necessary to solve three tasks: to investigate the origin and nature of the idiom, to choose the most appropriate method of translation into Russian, to take into account the context and practice of using the idiom in the speech of native speakers. Let's consider these tasks in more detail.

The meaning of an idiom is not reduced to the sum of the meanings of the words included in it. The meaning of the idiom is revealed only if you get to the bottom of its origins - history and origin. Sometimes, in order to understand the meaning of an idiom, we need to understand the specifics of the national character, the way of life and traditions of the people.

The origin of some idioms is well understood and unambiguous. For some idioms, there are several versions of the origin.

The main sources of origin of idioms:

1. Creations of great writers:

Shakespeare alone gave the world over a hundred idioms. For example, in *Romeo and Juliet*, he used the phrase "*wild goose chase*" as an idiom, not the name of an old game. And today we use this idiom to describe a situation where someone follows a leader who has unrealistic or illusory goals.

2. From the Bible:

"A leopard can't change its spots"

"A fly in the ointment"

"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush"

"A wolf in sheep's clothing"

"Scapegoat"

3. Foreign languages (French, Latin)

For example, the Latin expression "*Albus Corvus* (the satirical poet Juvenal) was used in English as "*Rara avis*" / "*Rare bird*" – in Russian as "*white crow*". The meaning is the same in all languages - a person who is very different from those around him in some way.

4. History (facts, people, traditions of the past that have disappeared in reality, but continue to live in the language):

For example, the most popular idiom in the English language: *It's raining cats and dogs*.

Version 1. Houses in the XV and XVI centuries were low and had thatched roofs. It was the only place for animals to keep warm, so cats, dogs, mice and other small animals hid there. During heavy rain, the roofs became slippery, and the animals slipped and fell off them.

Version 2. The dirty streets of medieval English cities were full of dead cats, dogs, rats and mice. Torrents of heavy rain carried the bodies of animals through the streets. Animals did not fall from the sky, but the very sight of dead cats and dogs in puddles was associated with heavy rain. Other idioms with historical origins:

“To grin like a Cheshire cat”

“Red herring”

“To let the cat out of the bag”

“Barber’s cat”

“To fight like Kilkenny cats”

“to buy a pig in a poke”

5. Nature (first of all, the behavior and habits of animals):

“Don't count your chickens before they hatch”

“Drink like a fish”

“Drop likes flies”

“Let sleeping dogs lie”

“Like a chicken with its head cut off”

“When pigs fly”

In addition to these traditional sources of idioms, new ones are emerging. Today we exist in the reality of the digital world and the world of high technologies. It is very likely that many idioms are born every day, we just don't realize it.

When translating idioms, it is very important to take into account their meaning, the historical and cultural context of both languages.

Basic idiom translation techniques:

- Phraseological equivalent
- Phraseological analogue
- Literal translation
- Descriptive semantic translation

Phraseological equivalent is the best way to translate idioms: find an idiom in the target language (the language into which the translation is being made) that uses the same words, the same structure and has exactly the same meaning.

Phraseological analogue is the second-best choice when translating idioms: there is an idiom that uses different words, a different structure, but has exactly the same meaning.

Literal translation is not a very good way to translate idioms, but if a proper equivalent or analogue cannot be found, one can translate the idiom word-for-word and convey the main meaning (in this way idioms often enter the language from foreign languages).

Descriptive semantic translation is an explanation of the main meaning of an idiom. Strictly speaking, this way of translation "kills" the idiom as such.

Idiom translation techniques are easy to master using English idioms related to animals.

Many English idioms have an equivalent in Russian and Uzbek:

a dark horse

Drop like flies

Curiosity killed the cat

a bird in the hand (is worth two in the bush)

Some English idioms have animal-related counterparts in Russian and German - with the same meaning, but with a different animal:

Rig in a poke

When pigs fly

For some idioms, we can find non-animal counterparts:

a dead duck

No room to swing a cat

Drink like a fish

Some English idioms are absolutely unique and we can only explain their meaning or find a synonym:

a cat burglar

Kitty-corner

Nest eggs

Pig out on smth

Raining cats and dogs

There are paradoxes in the translation of idioms. For example, the idiom "*monkey business*" has no equivalent in other languages, meaning bad or dishonorable behavior.

The language and mentality of the nation are closely connected. Idioms are the most lively and emotional part of the language; therefore, they reflect the deepest values, attitudes and cultural characteristics. The example of idioms related to animals shows this most clearly. The appearance of animals, the habits of animals, the images and perception of animals, the attitude towards them - all this is reflected in idioms, but in different ways in different languages. The semantic perception of animals in English and Uzbek cultures may differ. The same animals in Uzbek and English idioms demonstrate different qualities. This or that advantage or disadvantage can be attributed to completely different animals. Sometimes a reasonable explanation can be found for these national differences, sometimes not, and it remains to be content with the fact that this has been the case for a long time. For example, to describe a very hungry person in English would be compared with a horse (*to eat like a horse*), and in Uzbek with a wolf (*bo'ridek och*).

In conclusion, it must be emphasized once again that the study of idioms is a very interesting and important activity. The study of idioms helps to realize that we have a lot in common and that the basic values of different peoples are the same. Using idioms is very helpful. Idioms make English speech more natural and more authentic. Idioms in a person's speech are a kind of sign of intelligence and a good education; this is a kind of recognizable cultural code. Learning and using idioms develops imagination and right brain thinking. That is, idioms can be a great tool for self-improvement.

The translation of idioms is a creative process; it requires a serious understanding of the meanings and "feeling" of the language. But the translation of idioms is also a great pleasure, because idioms are the most lively, amazing and surprising part of the language.

REFERENCES

1. Козлова Ю.А. (2019). Проблемы перевода фразеологизмов англоязычного текста. Вестник магистратуры, (3-2 (90)), 71-73.
2. Cindy Leaney. In the know: understanding and using idioms. Cambridge University Press, 2019
3. Набиева Г. А. (2023). Таржима асарларининг ўзига хос хусусиятлари. Talqin va tadqiqotlar ilmiy-uslubiy jurnali, 1 (18), 109-118.

4. Longman dictionary of English Idioms. Available at: <http://www.ldoceonline.com>
5. Peter Dainty. Idioms. Mary Glasgow Magazines, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2021